

entirely worn out; and it was noticeable how certain clever men and ambitious outsiders were thrown into very unfortunate political courses by the sense of being overshadowed by Mm, and not being favorites with him. "When John iforley, and Bryce, and I were men of fifty he was old enough, and more, to be our father; and he regarded us with great indulgence—at times even to the verge of spoiling us—as so many promising sons. We certainly were very fond of him. But I cannot help wishing that he had retired from office long before he did, and had allowed the Liberal party to work out its own salvation, make its own mistakes, and learn from its own experience.

When the treaty of peace between Russia and Japan was signed in September, 1905, Roosevelt wrote a long letter to Trevelyan describing the negotiations. In the same letter he wrote: " Your letter about John Hay interested me very much. I think he will be missed more and more instead of less and less as time goes on by all who knew him.¹⁵ Two other passages on his recent reading are worth quoting:

"Last night I was reading the poems of William Morris. Of course they are rather absurd and one gets tired of them very soon; but there are some of them which have a kind of pre-Eaphaelite attraction of their own. I also happened to pick up the fifth volume of Lecky. It seems to me that in the opening page he takes rather too sordid a view of the characteristics which we have a right to expect of a modern statesman. It does not

seem to me that
it is fair to say that passionate earnestness
and self-devotion, delicateness of conscience, and lofty aim
are likely to
prove a hindrance instead of a help to a
statesman or a
politician. Of course if he has no balance of
common-sense,
then the man will go to pieces; but it will be
because he is
a fool, not because he has some of the qualities
of a moral
hero. Undoubtedly many great statesmen
whose names are
written in history in imperishable—though
personally I
think in rather unpleasant—character, have
lacked these